DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1972

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND LICENSING COMMITTEE, 1972.

Chairman
Alderman K.W. JOHNSON

Vice-Chairman
Councillor N.G. ROUND

The Mayor
Councillor Mrs. C.N.C. GRAHAM

Members
Aldermen D.C. HERBERT, W.C.J. RAY, D.F.C., Councillors A. JONES,
C. WILLETTS, Miss J.K. GRAINER, J.G. CAMPION, H.A. NEALE,
A.N. BROWN.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. TWOMEY, M.B.,B.Ch.,B.A.O.,N.U.I.,D.T.M. & H.,D.P.H.,M.F.C.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. ARCHER (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A.R. HUMPHRIES (a.b.c.)

Senior Public Health Inspector:

D. SPURRIER (a.b.c.)

District Public Health Inspectors:

I.B.W. CUTLER (d.c.)
J.E. EVANS, B.Sc. (e)
H.G. WILLIAMS, B.Sc. (e)
R.C. BRACEY (d.)

Pupil Public Health Inspectors:

W.J. OSBORNE
R.M. CORBETT

Technical Assistants:

D.G. HOOPER (until 31.12.72)
M.J. HAYWARD

Chief Clerk:

L.S. QUARTLY (until 9.7.72)
C. MADDOX (from 21.8.72)

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health:

Mrs. P. PETERS

Secretary to the Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mrs. P. MARSH.

Clerk/Shorthand Typists:

Mrs. J.M. BROWN (until 16.7.72)
Mrs. J. BELLINGHAM (until 10.9.72)
Mrs. J. BARTON (until 4.9.72)
Mrs. J. Lea (from 30.10.72)
Mrs. A. Turner (from 18.12.72)

(a) Public Health Inspector's Certificate
(b) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate
(c) Smoke Inspector's Certificate
(d) Diploma of the Public Health Inspector's Education Board
(e) B.Sc., in Environmental Health
(f) Diploma of Air Pollution Control

Council House,
Halesowen.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1972

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Halesowen.

Vital Statistics

The estimated mid-year population is 54,340, which is an increase of 350 over the corresponding figure for 1971. The birth-rate has fallen though less steeply than in the previous year and, once again, reflects a national trend.

The infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births) is 9 which compares favourably with the corresponding national figure of 17. However, it must be said that this rate in 1971 was 24, the national figure for that year being 18. With the present small loss of infant life, wide fluctuations in the infant mortality rate occur from year to year in a population the size of Halesowen's and are of limited statistical significance. The national infant mortality rate showed a progressive improvement up to 1967 but has been more or less stagnant since then. In his Annual Report of 1972, Sir George Godber, the retiring Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security states that with regard to the infant mortality rates the country is failing to keep pace with the progress made in several other parts of the world such as Finland which had a rate of 11.8 and the Netherlands one of 11.1, both in 1971.

The death rate, the stillbirth rate and other rates are close to this national equivalent.

Causes of Death

Out of a total of 621 deaths 203 were caused by heart conditions, 134 by various forms of malignancy and 102 by cerebrovascular disease which included strokes. This is similar to the pattern of recent years.

The number of deaths from lung cancer has declined from 37 in the previous year to 29 but is still very high compared with the early nineteen fifties when the present upsurge of this disease began. As shown in the table on page 18, the recent increase has been most marked in the female sex. This is associated with the fact that the smoking of cigarettes is a fashion more recently adopted by women than by men. In his Annual Report for 1972 Sir George Godber describes the cigarette as "the most lethal instrument devised by man for peaceful use". The possibility of a safer substitute cigarette being produced is something on which there is at present insufficient evidence to comment.

In general, the causes of death showed few changes or surprises.

Control of Infectious Disease including Imported Disease

There were no major outbreak of infectious disease during the year and the number of notifications was small.

There was, however, an episode in which three students out of four in the Borough who had attended a language course in Paris contracted infective hepatitis: several other members of the same course also suffered from this disease and the circumstances do not reflect credit on the hygiene practiced in the establishment in which the course was held. The mother of one of the students was manageress of a confectionery shop and was asked to cease work for a period because of the risk of transmitting infection through food.

There was a false alarm when a contact of a suspected case of smallpox in Oldham was traced to Halesowen but fortunately the Oldham case proved not to be smallpox.

German Measles in Play-Groups

When information of rubella (german measles) infection among children in play-groups is received, letters are sent to all parents in the group concerned giving advice in the case of expectant mothers coming in direct contact with the infection.

Halesowen Home Safety Committee

As usual talks and film shows were given by Health Visitors and others. The publication of a monthly column in the Circular was continued, the space being kindly afforded free of charge.

Fireguards were purchased for needy families on the recommendation of the Halesowen Fire Brigade.

Among the subjects brought by the Committee to the attention of RoSPA were toy xylophones with dangerous sharp edges and risks from marquee stakes.

Meetings of the Committee were visited by Mrs. Nancy Tait, Home Safety Liaison Officer, RoSPA, and by Divisional Officer Smith, Warley Fire Brigade, who demonstrated a new alarm system for old people.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

This post was not filled during the year.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my appreciation for the support and co-operation which I received from the Mayor, the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. J.B. McCooke, Mr. A. Archer, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department. I am also deeply indebted to Dr. C. Starkie, Medical Officer of Health, Kidderminster Borough Council, for having made himself available to deal with emergencies during my occasional absences from the district.

J. TWOMEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

Area of the district	5,237 acres
Population census, 1961	44,445
Population (R.G's est. June 1972)	54,340
Rateable Value (31st December, 1972)	£2,594,097
Sum represented by the 1p. rate (est.)	£25,300
Number of inhabited dwellings at the end of 1972	19,000
Number of persons per dwelling	2.86

Deaths in Halesowen

Male	Female	Total
359	262	621

Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	11.4
Area comparability factor	1.08
Adjusted death rate	12.3
Death rate for England and Wales	12.1

The adjusted death rate is obtainable by multipying the crude death rate by the comparability factor.

The following vital statistics relate to mothers and infants for 1972:

Live Births:	
Number	813
Rate per 1,000 population	15.0
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total live births).	4
Stillbirths:	
Number	9
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	11
Total Live and Still Births	822
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	7
Infant Mortality Rates:	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	9
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	9
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	4
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	15
Maternal Mortality Rate including abortion per 1,000 total live and still births for Halesowen	Nil.
Neo-natal Mortality Rate infant deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	9
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 0.96	14.4
Birth rate of England and Wales	14.8
Stillbirth rate for England and Wales	12.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales	22
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	17
Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis, England and Wales per million population	19
Corresponding figure for Halesowen, per million population.	18
Cancer of the lung and bronchus per million, England and Wales	646
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (29 deaths)	533
Other cancer per million, England and Wales	1,392
Corresponding figure for Halesowen	1,932

VITAL STATISTICS

	Males			Females		
	Total	Legit.	Illegit.	Total	Legit.	Illegit.
Live Births	421	407	14	392	377	15
Still Births	3	3	-	6	6	-
Deaths of Infants:						
Under 1 year of age	4	4	-	3	3	-
Under 4 weeks of age	4	4	-	3	3	-
Under 1 week of age	3	3	-	3	3	-

Cause of Death	Sex	All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and Over
B5 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B18 Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B19(1) Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(2) Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(3) Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
B19(4) Malignant neoplasm, intestine	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	3
	F	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	4	4
B19(5) Malignant neoplasm, larynx	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B19(6) Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	9	8	2
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-
B19(7) Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	16	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	3	4	3
B19(8) Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1
B19(9) Malignant neoplasm, prostate	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	2
B19(10) Leukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B19(11) Other malignant neoplasms	M	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	11	2
	F	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	6	5
B20 Benign and unspecified neoplasms	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B21 Diabetes mellitus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

B22 Avitaminoses, etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(1) Other endocrine etc. diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
B23 Anaemias	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
B46(2) Other diseases of blood, etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
B46(3) Mental disorders	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(5) Other diseases of nervous system	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
B26 Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3
B27 Hypertensive disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B28 Ischaemic heart disease	M	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	20	36	26
	F	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	15	44
B29 Other forms of heart disease	M	14	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	2	7
	F	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	13
B30 Cerebrovascular disease	M	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	18	31
	F	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	13	25
B46(6) Other diseases of circulatory system	M	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	4
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7
B31 Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B32 Pneumonia	M	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11	8
	F	13	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	9
B33(1) Bronchitis and emphysema	M	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	12	12
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3

B46(7) Other diseases of respiratory system	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B34 Peptic ulcer	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B36 Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B37 Cirrhosis of liver	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B46(8) Other diseases of digestive system	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
B39 Hyperplasia of prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B46(9) Other diseases, genito-urinary system	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B46(10) Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B46(11) Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
B42 Congenital anomalies	M	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B43 Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	M	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE47 Motor vehicle accidents	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
BE48 All other accidents	M	4	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
BE49 Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	359	4	-	3	1	1	1	4	27	71	129	118
	F	262	3	-	1	-	-	1	9	10	31	72	135

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND MORTALITY RATES FOR HALESOWEN

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Food Poisoning	-	-	4	5	4	2	-	2	6	3	-	6
Measles	16	219	198	103	237	294	194	511	285	794	10	545
Scarlet Fever	27	12	25	30	17	36	29	24	19	50	25	13
Typhoid	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	8	5	11	33	50	11	1	23	30	-	6
Dysentery	2	1	-	4	26	3	-	3	2	15	50	-
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory T.B. (new cases)	6	3	7	7	2	12	7	5	10	7	7	11
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	11	5	4	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate	9.0	12.0	12.1	4.7	4.8	8.9	10.4	21.4	12.4	13.6	10.6	16.8
Infant Mortality Rate	9.0	24.0	17.6	9.5	8.4	11.4	19.6	21.4	19.3	21.9	11.9	18.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate	15.0	26.0	21.8	17.5	11.9	22.5	18.1	21.7	25.8	33.4	28.6	31.6

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough of Halesowen

1. (a) Public Health Officers

The staff of the Public Health Department is given on page 3.

(b) Laboratory Facilities

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst, Mr. W.E. Jones, M.Sc.,F.R.I.C.

Bacteriological work is done by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, under the Medical Director, Dr. R. J. Henderson, M.D.,Ch.B.

2. Ambulance Service

The ambulance service is provided by the Worcestershire County Council and during the year six ambulances and fifteen whole-time drivers were employed. The ambulances are radio-controlled and a twenty-four hour service is operated from the station.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough in addition to those in the City of Birmingham and the County Borough of Wolverhampton are the Corbett Hospital and Wordsley Hospital at Stourbridge, the Guest Hospital at Dudley, the Bromsgrove General Hospital and Hayley Green Hospital.

Maternity services are provided at the Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital at Stourbridge, the Birmingham Maternity Hospital Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre.

3. County Council and Voluntary Agency Services

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area and are in charge of the Home Help service. The Meals on Wheels service is carried out by the W.R.V.S. in conjunction with the County Council.

4. Infectious Diseases

Infectious disease cases are admitted when necessary to Hayley Green Hospital. This hospital is under the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and administered by Group 17, Dudley, Stourbridge and District Hospital Group, Birmingham Region.

5. School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Sessions

These are provided by the County Council and the District has three centres: Hill and Cakemore, Halesowen and Cradley.

6. Welfare Foods

Welfare foods are sold at Infant Welfare Centres and certain shops.

SECTION C

Housing

In 1972, 150 dwellings were erected, 52 by the local authority, 18 by other local authorities and 80 privately. The Council at 31st December, 1972 owned 5341 dwellings.

SECTION D

Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation of children against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis and measles is carried out at County Council infant welfare clinics and by general practitioners. The number of children treated at the clinics and by the general practitioners during 1972 was as follows:-

	Primary Treatment Completed	Boosting Doses
Under 5 years	699	29
Five to 15 years	12	515
	711	544

Measles Notifications, 1972

	WARDS								
	Belle Vale	Cakemore	Central	Cradley	Hasbury	Hayley Green	Hill	Lapal	Total
January	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
February	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
March	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
April	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
May	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
June	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
August	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
September	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3
December	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
	Nil.	2	2	Nil.	4	1	3	4	16

Tuberculosis

Eight new cases were reported during the year.

Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
6	2

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Age Periods	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-	-	-	-	-
1-	1	-	-	-
5-	1	2	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-
20-	-	-	-	-
25-	-	1	1	1
35-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-
65-	1	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-
	3	3	1	1

Cases remaining on Tuberculosis register:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1971	30	16	6	11
1972	29	15	6	7

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Year	New Notifications	Deaths
1958	18	2
1959	21	-
1960	14	3
1961	11	-
1962	7	3
1963	7	4
1964	10	1
1965	6	1
1966	7	-
1967	12	1
1968	2	1
1969	7	-
1970	7	-
1971	3	1
1972	6	1

Deaths from Cancer of Lung, Bronchus

Year	Male	Females
1950	10	1
1951	13	1
1952	9	2
1953	8	2
1954	10	1
1955	18	1
1956	12	2
1957	9	1
1958	22	2
1959	15	2
1960	27	-
1961	14	1
1962	14	2
1963	19	2
1964	15	1
1965	25	1
1966	20	4
1967	17	2
1968	27	4
1969	36	5
1970	17	7
1971	30	7
1972	23	6

Notifiable Diseases, 1972

Disease	Total	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	27	-	1	2	3	3	12	3	2	1	-	-
Measles	16	1	6	2	1	2	3	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	6	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	1	-
Typhoid	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	3	1	-